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## AFTER AIR FORCE, ARMY SHIFTS ITS ANNUAL DAY PARADE OUT OF DELHI

**The move came after the Centre asked the military and paramilitary entities to spread their events across the country, not just in Delhi**

**EVENT TO BE HELD UNDER SOUTHERN COMMAND**

From next year, the Indian Army Day parade will be celebrated under the Southern Command area. The Indian Air Force had also recently moved out its annual fly-past and parade from the Hindon Air Base near Delhi to Chandigarh this year. The flypast on October 8 is expected over Sukhna Lake. Earlier, it used to be conducted at the Palam base in Delhi

**VENUE TO BE CHANGED EVERY YEAR**

- Army officials said the parade would be held at different locations on a rotational basis and the venue would change every year
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been hosting foreign dignitaries in different cities. Events like Defexpo are being held outside Delhi
- The aim is to foster a deeper connect with people across India

**January 15**
THE INDIAN ARMY PARADE IS CELEBRATED ON THIS DAY EVERY YEAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

# EC plans to choke cash flow to parties

Writes to Law Ministry suggesting cash component of donations be restricted to 20% of the overall funds, with annual cap at ₹20 crore; Anonymous donations can only be ₹2,000

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission of India is reported to have sent a proposal to the Union law ministry seeking to cap cash donations to political parties at 20% of the total annual receipts with a maximum of ₹20 crore, and bringing down anonymous political donations from ₹20,000 to ₹2,000.

The proposal sent by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar to Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju suggests a slew of amendments in the Representation of the People Act to check the flow of black money into the election process.

As per the existing Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, political parties are required to give the EC details of donors contributing in excess of ₹20,000. If the government accepts the proposal, parties will have to provide the EC names and other details of all donors contributing in excess of ₹2,000.

But, bringing down anonymous donations from ₹20,000 to ₹2,000 will not in any way check the flow of cash into political parties. It will at best add to the parties' clerical work as they will have to issue more 'coupons' showing donations under ₹2,000.

Political parties have developed a coupon system for collecting funds to evade the EC radar. They issue coupons to internally account for the cash donations they receive. Hence, the reduction of the limit of anonymous contribution will not hamper their cash collection.

However, the proposal that has sent alarm bells ringing for the opposition parties is the capping of cash donation at ₹20 crore. Political parties have been showing cash receipts of hundreds of crores annually by issuing coupons. If the EC recommendations are accepted, their annual cash receipt will be capped at ₹20 crore.

BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali said the cap on cash donations would tilt the playing field in favour of large parties. "Our party — the BSP — runs on small donations from individuals. Large companies do not fund us. Capping cash contribution at ₹20 crore is clearly aimed at choking the flow of funds to the opposition, especially smaller parties like ours that run on crowd-funding. We will oppose this move."

He said companies and high net worth individuals are afraid of giving money to opposition parties as they fear government backlash.

"Now, the government wants to stop small donors from funding us," he said. Parties such as the BSP have been receiving over 75% of their contribution in cash, which runs into hundreds of crores.

Transparancy activists have for long been demanding full accountability for all monetary contributions to parties, including via electoral bonds, to clean up the poll process.

A bulldozer pulls down part of the compound wall on Wipro premises on Sarjapur Road, which was marked for encroaching a rajakaluve, in Bengaluru on Monday. After a two-day break, BBMP resumed its demolition drive | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

# Judicial commission to probe encroachments

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Monday that the state government has decided to set up a judicial commission to probe encroachment of lakes, tanks, buffer zones and storm water drains (SWD) in Bengaluru, in the wake of recent floods that caused widespread havoc in the city.

Bommai told the Legislative Assembly that the probe team will track the history of encroachments as to when and by whom the lakes and drains were encroached upon and developed into layouts and roads, who were the officers responsible for sanctioning it and who was in power at that time.

Bommai said the commission will be headed by a judicial officer and will include technical experts. "We need a strong will to stop this. The whole system has gone wrong," he said. The CM alleged there was an attempt by the previous governments to encroach dry lakes and there was also a cabinet decision to wipe out such lake areas from the map so that the land can be used for real estate. But strong protests from the public forced the government to withdraw their decisions. P2

# HC forms panel to inquire into implementation of CAG report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DIRECTING that no authority should either conduct a parallel inquiry or pass orders on managing storm water drains, the Karnataka High Court constituted a three-member committee and asked it to submit a report on the measures taken by the BBMP on implementation of the recommendations of 'Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Performance Audit of Management of Storm Water in Bengaluru Urban Area'.

A division bench of acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty passed the order on Monday after hearing a PIL.

"It was brought to our notice that a performance audit has been conducted on maintenance of SWDs and a report has been submitted by the CAG. Admittedly, the BBMP received the report in September 2021. BBMP's counsel was unable to explain what substantial steps have been taken for the implementation of the recommendations," the HC said. P2

Royal Navy Sailors walk ahead and behind the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II, draped in the Royal Standard, as it travels from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch in London on Monday | AFP

President Droupadi Murmu with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace at an official state event | PTI

## World bids adieu to Queen Elizabeth II

Around 2,000 people, including world leaders, attended Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral service at Westminster Abbey on Monday morning

After a 40-km journey, her coffin reached Windsor Castle and was lowered into the royal vault

The Lord Chamberlain, the most senior official in the British royal household, broke a rod known as the 'wand of office', while former MI5 chief Andrew Parker broke the white rod | P12

EXPRESS READ

**KPCC chief appears before ED in DA case**

Bengaluru: KPCC chief DK Shivakumar on Monday appeared before the ED in New Delhi, after he was summoned last week to depose before the agency in an alleged disproportionate assets case | P4

**Former Punjab CM Amarinder joins BJP**

New Delhi: Former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh (80) joined BJP on Monday and merged his Punjab Lok Congress with it, saying it is time for him to go to the party that is looking after the country's interests | P9

# It's Gehlot vs Tharoor for Congress top job

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ELECTIONS to the post of Congress president may see a contest between senior party leader Shashi Tharoor and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. Tharoor, who met interim party chief Sonia Gandhi at her residence on Monday, has received the go-ahead to contest the polls, scheduled to be held on October 17, said sources.

Ashok Gehlot

Shashi Tharoor

"Anyone can contest the election. It will be fair and transparent," Sonia reportedly told Tharoor, a member of G-23 group, which has been seeking internal reforms in the party.

Earlier on Monday, the Thiruvananthapuram MP had also supported a petition by party members demanding 'reforms' in the Congress.

The filing of the nominations for the post of president will begin in three days. Endorsing Sonia's view, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that the election is an open, democratic and transparent process.

# 13,133 pourakarmikas made govt staffers

RAMSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

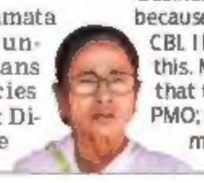
IN a significant move, the state cabinet took a decision to extend benefits enjoyed by state government employees to 13,133 pourakarmikas across the state. A senior cabinet minister said that 5,533 pourakarmikas come under City Municipal Councils (CMC), Town Municipal Councils (TMC) and Town Panchayats, 3,673 pourakarmikas come under the BBMP and the remaining are come under corporations of Mangaluru, Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi and Kalaburagi. The 13,133 pourakarmikas will now be covered in the salary bracket of Rs 17,000 to Rs 29,950. P4

# Bengal Assembly passes resolution against ED, CBI

PRONAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

WEST Bengal on Monday became the first state in the country to adopt an Assembly resolution criticising raids by Central law enforcement agencies, saying they were selectively targeting ruling party functionaries to create an atmosphere of fear, but tactically kept Prime Minister Narendra Modi out of the firing line.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused unnamed BJP politicians for misusing agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI but said she does not believe the prime minister is responsible for their excesses. The resolution came at a time when Central agencies are probing major cases like the school jobs scam, cattle smuggling and coal pilferage in which powerful Trinamool Congress leaders figure as accused. P10



**PM isn't involved:Didi**

"Businessmen are running away because of fear of the ED and the CBI. I believe Modi hasn't done this. Many of you don't know that the CBI doesn't report to PMO; it reports to the home ministry," Mamata said

# Trans scholar exposes baby-selling incident

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

A transgender, pursuing her PhD at Mysore University, has exposed an incident of a newborn being sold by a poor couple in the backward Chamarajanagar district recently.

Deepa Buddhe, who is working on the topic of 'Mysuru-Chamarajanagar Districts Transgender Communities: A critical study on the lives and struggle', was in Chamarajanagar for a survey when she was informed that the baby had been sold for Rs 50,000. Deepa voluntarily gathered more information and evidence to prove that a baby selling racket prevails in the region and has now approached the authorities concerned seeking justice for the baby's mother. The baby was born to Basava, a hotel staffer, and Nagaveni 25 days ago. Against the consent of Nagaveni, Basava decided to sell the baby to a person in Galipura. Nagaveni later revealed that Basava forcibly made her agree to the deal, citing their financial condition. P3

> I told Basava about the legal implications of his criminal act and asked him to bring the baby back in three days. But he has not done it till now -Deepa Buddhe

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